

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1030

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LA, EMIN

SUBJECT: MINERAL RESOURCES, XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE

REF: VIENTIANE 4413

1. SURVEY REPORT REFERRED TO IN PARA 3, REFTTEL, HAS BEEN COMPLETED (DATED AUGUST 1974) AND WE ARE FORWARDING UNDER SEPARATE COVER COPIES TO DEPARTMENT AND AID/W. WE ARE NOT YET, HOWEVER, AT LIBERTY TO CIRCULATE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN SURVEY REPORT.

2. THE REPORT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO GENERAL VANG PAO'S XIENG KHOUANG DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE GENERAL VANG PAO PLANS TO MAKE THE SURVEY AVAILABLE TO THE PGNU MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN AS HIS CONTRIBUTION TO PLANNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAOS. UNTIL THE REPORT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN AND THE MINISTRY HAS MADE ITS CONCLUSIONS KNOWN, IT MUST BE TREATED AS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION.

3. THE SURVEY OF IRON ORE DEPOSITS COVERED AN AREA OF 240 SQUARE KILOMETERS, DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT AS THE "DRAGON FIELD". IT IS SOME 15 KM. SOUTH OF LONG TIENG, AND IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE LATITUDES OF 18 DEGREES 56 MINUTES AND 19 DEGREES 04 MINUTES NORTH, AND LONGITUDES 102 DEGREES 53 MINUTES AND

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103 DEGREES AND 02 MINUTES EAST. TWENTY-FOUR ORE BODIES

IN THE AREA OF INVESTIGATION ARE GROUPED INTO EIGHT IRON DEPOSITS RANGING IN AVERAGE FE CONTENT OF FROM 64.77 PERCENT FE TO 68.23 PERCENT FE. THE TOTAL PROBABLE ORE RESERVE OF THE INVESTIGATED AREAS OF THE DRAGON FIELD IS 53.6 MILLION METRIC TONS. UNINVESTIGATED AREAS IN THE DRAGON FIELD ARE STATED IN THE REPORT TO HAVE A POTENTIAL RESERVE OF ABOUT 360 MILLION METRIC TONS.

SOME OTHER MINERAL DEPOSITS WERE INVESTIGATED ALONG WITH THE PRINCIPLE FOCUS ON IRON ORE. THE REPORT STATES THAT OF THE OTHER MINERALS INVESTIGATED, ONLY SOME LEAD-ZINC AND MANGANESE DEPOSITS DESERVE ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

4. THE METHODS USED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDED RECONNAISSANCE GEOLOGY SURVEYING, MAGNETIC GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYING, AND ON THE GROUND MINERAL INVESTIGATION AND CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF ORE SAMPLES DONE BY THE CHEMISTRY SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES, ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT.

5. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF LAO ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE REPORT, AND THE POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION OF THE REPORT OR ITS ESSENTIAL FINDINGS TO THE TRADE.
WHITEHOUSE

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